

Middletown Public Schools

Middletown, Rhode Island

March 20, 2008

7:00 p.m. – Regular Meeting

MICHAEL S. PINTO CONFERENCE ROOM

Members Present: Michael F. Crowley, Jr., Chairman

Liana F. Fenton, Vice-Chair

Edward K. Draper

Theresa M. Spengler

Member Absent: William Coogan

Also Present: Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Supt of Schools

Catherine McLeish, Business Manager

Edward Collins, Director of Facilities

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by Chairman Michael Crowley. Administrative staff members present were Tim Ryan, Steven Ruscito, Vincent Giuliano, Janet Sheehan, Gail Abromitis, Michael Mancieri, Maureen Cicchitelli, Stephen Ponte, as well as Linda Savastano. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

“Joseph H. Gaudet Middle School“

• Michael Mancieri showcased a presentation of Gaudet Middle School highlighting what a successful schools embraces:

- o Guaranteed and viable curriculum**
- o Challenging goals and effective feedback**
- o Parental and community involvement**
- o Safe and orderly environment**
- o Collegiality and professionalism**
- o Building a Community**

Mr. Ron Dumais showcased the schools' technology/library programs, Mrs. Denise McCarthy then referred to the schools' connection to parents. Mrs. Debra O'Bryan expressed the importance of community involvement and highlighted the Starbase Atlantis program offered to our students by the Newport Naval Base. Mrs. Donna Chelf spoke about the School Improvement Team and Professional Development; Mrs. Donna Murphy spoke about their safe and orderly environment and the help advisory & the bullying committee provided in order to accomplish this; Mr. Dan Seger shared the collegiality and professionalism that Gaudet maintains.

PROCLAMATIONS/AWARDS

- **Retiring Personnel**

- o **Total of 137 years of service between the five retirees:**

 John H. Anthony – Grade 8 Science, Gaudet School

 Deborah C. Kern – Dean, Middletown High School

 Barbara H. Reed – Social Studies, Middletown High School

 Carol E. Turcotte – English, Middletown High School

 Linda G. Welch – Special Education, Forest Avenue School

- **Student Awards – Student Awards were presented in the following categories:**

- o **Newport Daily News Athlete of the Week**

- o **Girls' Swim Team ~ Division III Champions 2008**

- o **Wrestling Champions**

- o **District Spelling Bee Winners**

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

No “Student Activities” for March 20, 2008.

INFORMATION

Mrs. Kraeger noted items of information in the School Committee Package:

- Position paper on equity funding of Career and Tech schools**
- Registration for 2008-2009 begins April 1st for Grades K, 1st and 9th**
- MAPIT letter to parents**

CORRESPONDENCE

- NEARI letter, dated March 7, 2008**

MOTION: 1)Theresa Spengler, 2)Liana Fenton. That the School Committee receive the communication. Unanimous vote.

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CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: 1)Theresa Spengler, 2)Liana Fenton. To approve the Consent Agenda. Unanimous vote.

1000. Approval of Minutes of November 20, 2007 Town Council/School Committee Workshop

1010. Approval of Minutes of January 31, 2008 Budget Workshop

1020. Approval of Minutes of February 7, 2008 High School Program

of Studies Workshop

1030. Approval of Minutes of February 14, 2008 Budget Workshop and School Committee Meeting

1040. Approval of Minutes of February 25, 2008 School Committee Meeting

1100. Approval of Financial Report, dated February 29, 2008, in the amount of \$17,563,937.90

1200. Approval of Invoice Register, dated February 19, 2008, in the amount of \$424,613.52

1110. Approval of Invoice Register, dated February 22, 2008, in the amount of \$1,793.42

1220. Approval of Invoice Register, dated March 4, 2008 in the amount of \$740,703.17

1230. Approval of Invoice Register, dated March 6, 2008 in the amount of \$2,358.75

1300. Approval of Special Grants Register, dated February 19, 2008, in the amount of \$42,767.76

1310. Approval of Special Grants Register, dated March 4, 2008, in the amount of \$115,342.02

1400. Superintendent's Recommendation on Personnel

SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION ON PERSONNEL

FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE ACT

Mary Clark First Grade Teacher, Forest Avenue School

March 11th through March 14th, 2008

Christa Robinson Multi-Age Teacher, Forest Avenue School

March 11th through March 13th, 2008

Linda Ferreira Teacher Assistant, Forest Avenue School

February 25th through March 31st, 2008

Lanni Sullivan Clerk, Oliphant Administration

From March 13th, 2008 for approximately four weeks

MATERNITY LEAVE - ARTICLE XIV, C, OPTION #1 (NEA/Middletown)

Robyn Borges Change start date from January 2, 2008

To December 20, 2007

2007/08 SPRING COACHING APPOINTMENTS

Eric Godin Head Varsity Baseball

Michael A. Yates Assistant Varsity Baseball

John A. Cawley Junior Varsity Baseball

Brian Dahlheimer Freshman Baseball

Christopher Greene Gaudet Baseball

Robin Ramey Head Varsity Softball

Christine Elliott Assistant Varsity Softball

Jesse Alvanas Junior Varsity Softball

Heidi Gauch Gaudet Softball

Shane Fennessey Head Varsity Boys' Track & Field

Justin Buffman Assistant Varsity Boys' Track & Field
Hubert "Ted" Hersey Head Varsity Girls' Track & Field
Kristen A. Seyster Assistant Varsity Girls' Track & Field
Lucien E. Forbes Head Varsity Boys' Lacrosse
Richard Formica Assistant Varsity Boys' Lacrosse
Courteney McKay Head Varsity Girls' Lacrosse
Alexandra Botelho Assistant Varsity Girls' Lacrosse
Lisa Clark Head Varsity Golf
Maryanne Curtis Head Varsity Boys' Tennis

ACTION ITEMS

BUDGET ADOPTION

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Edward Draper. That the School Committee approve the School Department Budget in the amount of \$36,306,487.00 for the 2008-2009 School Year.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION POLICY

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Edward Draper. That the School Committee approve the Affirmative Action Policy.

2008-2009 SCHOOL CALENDAR

MOTION: 1) Liana Fenton, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee approve the 2008-2009 School Calendar.

TENNIS COURT BID

MOTION: 1) Edward Draper, 2) Theresa Spengler. That the School Committee approve the Tennis Court Bid in the amount of \$256,875.00.

BATTING CAGE DONATION

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler, 2) Edward Draper. That the School Committee approve the Middletown Little League donation of a Batting Cage.

Mr. Draper suggested a thank you note be sent for this generous donation.

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

•High School NECAP Results

Steven Ruscito and Janet Sheehan presented the 2007-2008 NECAP test results for 11th grade students. This is the first year 11th graders have taken the NECAP test.

MOTION: 1) Theresa Spengler 2) Liana Fenton. To extend the meeting past 9:00 p.m. Unanimous Vote.

- **Activity Fees**

- o Mr. Draper proposed an “activity fee” concept. The “activity fee” would apply to all families in the school system.

- o Mrs. Kraeger will ask the school attorney to investigate the activity fee concept

SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORTS

- **CURRICULUM** – Mrs. Kraeger invited Maureen Cicchitelli to provide an update on the ESL program. Other curriculum items include:

- o A Safe Schools/Healthy Student grant has been submitted

- o Mr. Coogan asked Mrs. Kraeger to express the positive feedback he is receiving on the Fireside Chat meetings with parents of high school students by Mr. Ruscito.

- **FINANCIAL** –

- o The budget information needs to be communicated to the community.

- o Impact Aid is level funded. Mrs. Kraeger is going to Washington for the Impact Aid Conference at the end of March.

- o 53.42% expended in current year’s budget

- **FACILITIES** –

- o 200 pieces of furniture were donated by the Navy Base and have been immediately put to use. Mr. Draper asked that a Thank You note be sent out.

oRoughly 94 tags were handed out to students for the MAPIT program. The tags will be read next week. Mrs. Spengler asked if Mr. Collins has read any of them yet. He responded that he reads them every afternoon and the participation is strong. The program is going well.

oUtilities – comparing to last year: the school department is approximately \$5K over on electric, but \$5K under on gas

MOTION: 1)Theresa Spengler, 2)Liana Fenton. That the School Committee receive the Superintendent's Reports. Unanimous vote.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

Mrs. Fenton –

oOn March 7th, Mrs. Fenton attended the GRRL Tech event at Roger Williams University. Thirty-eight girls from Middletown attended, with a total 350 girls statewide. There were approximately two hands-on sessions per student, and a panel of female scientists discussed career paths. Roger Williams awarded two full scholarships.

ADJOURN FROM MEETING

MOTION: 1)Theresa Spengler, 2) Edward Draper. To adjourn from School Committee Meeting at 9:16 p.m. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rosemarie K. Kraeger, Clerk